

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01083 071749 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 126501

P R 071703 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 988
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T OTTAWA 1083

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR VS CA
SUBJECT: GOC DECISION ON ICCS PARTICIPATION

WILL BE MADE SHORTLY, POSSIBLY BY MAY 17. AT THIS READING, DECISION MOST LIKELY TO BE NEGATIVE. IF CANADA IS TO CONTINUE ITS ICCS ROLE, GOC WILL REQUIRE DEMONSTRABLE EVIDENCE OF IMPROVEMENT OR LIKELIHOOD OF IMPROVEMENT IN VIET- NAM SITUATION. EVEN IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING PEACE MACHINERY INTACT AND PRESSURES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING USG WILL BE OF DOUBTFUL WEIGHT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. GOC HAS PROMISED A DECISION BY OR BEFORE END OF MAY AS TO ITS CONTINUED ROLE IN ICCS. EVERY INDICATION NOW IS THAT DECISION WILL BE NEGATIVE, AND THAT CANADA'S ICCS ROLE WILL TERMINATE, AFTER 30- DAY TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, BY END OF JUNE. EXTAFF MIN SHARP HAS FREQUENTLY STATED GOC DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW IN ABSENCE " SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION OR SOME SIGHT OF A POLITICAL AGREEMENT." IN TORONTO SPEECH MAY 2, FOLLOWING SECOND HELICOPTER INCIDENT, HE SAID, " UNLESS WE HAVE SOME PROSPECTS OF DOING SOMETHING USEFUL, WE WOULD HAVE TO GET OUT." FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, AND FROM EMBASSY SAIGON'S REPORTING, WE SEE LITTLE OR NOTHING WHICH GOC COULD USE TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED ICCS PARTICIPATION TO INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL PUBLIC OPINION, PRESS, AND PARLIAMENT. MOST RECENT HELICOPTER SHOOTING INCIDENT, PERHAPS EVEN MORE
SECRET

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THAN LAO BAO SHOOTDOWN, HAS HEIGHTENED CANADIAN CONCERNS.
EDITORIAL COMMENT IS PRACTICALLY UNANIMOUS IN CALLING FOR
CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL. SHARP'S COMMISSIONS WERE INITIATED LAST
SEPTEMBER BUT THAT THE
STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED.

(D) ON BROADER ISSUE OF U. S.- VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM RELATIONS,
SECRETARY MIGHT CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT INDEED WE SHALL BE
HAPPY TO TAKE ALL THE OIL VENEZUELA CAN PRODUCE PROVIDED
IT MEETS WORLD MARKET CONDITIONS AS TO QUALITY AND PRICE.
MCCLINTOCK

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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